

Marc Thornsbury
154 E Bingen Point Way Suite A
Bingen WA 98605

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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

The claim that rules requiring Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers to sell access to their copper-line infrastructure (aka unbundled network elements) to smaller competitors are no longer necessary because the US broadband market is sufficiently competitive is, at best, ridiculous and, at worst, a contemptible lie. While there may be areas where there exists widespread competition that does not rely on UNEs, in much of the rural US such competition is extremely limited or non-existent.

For example, in Klickitat County, there are few providers and in many areas the ILEC is the only option or the only affordable option. In those cases where other providers are available, they commonly operate on using UNEs. Eliminating UNEs would eliminate competition and condemn rural areas such as Klickitat County to second-class status in the information economy.

We remind Mr. Pai that he no longer works for Verizon--he now works for the public. As such, we expect him (and the FCC) to avoid subverting the public interest to the interests of big telecom as would be the case with the changes to UNEs now being contemplated.

Marc Thornsbury
Executive Director
Port of Klickitat

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